



# M E D I A   R E L E A S E

STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT:

MICHELLE MOWERY JOHNSON  
(615) 313-4707 (OFFICE)

## **TENNESSEE REHABILITATION CENTER GRADUATES STRIVE FOR SUCCESS OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM**

DOZENS OF TENNESSEANS WITH DISABILITIES GRADUATE TO A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE

SMYRNA, Tenn. – Nearly 90 significantly disabled young men and women from across the state accepted their graduation certificates from the Tennessee Rehabilitation Center (TRC) in Smyrna today. Many proudly walked, while others rolled their wheelchairs up the ramp to the stage where they received the hard-earned certificates.

The new graduates took advantage of the ten diverse programs offered at TRC, including Business Education Training, Hospitality and Food Service Training, and Custodial and Warehouse Training. Students are referred to TRC by vocational rehabilitation counselors in their home counties.

“TRC’s mission is to provide comprehensive rehabilitation services in a positive and productive learning environment,” said Assistant Commissioner for Rehabilitation Services Andrea Cooper. “The services offered at TRC assist individuals in achieving their highest level of functioning so they can live and work as independently as possible.”

Students who attend TRC have a wide variety of disabilities, from traumatic brain injuries to blindness or mental retardation. Many must undergo physical or occupational therapy or take part in the transitional living skills program to better assist them as they leave the TRC and move back home or re-locate to new communities and enter the work world.

Cekita Swift, who has a speech and language disability, completed the Business Education vocational training program. The Tiptonville native has moved to Nashville to begin work with the state’s Department of Finance and Administration.

Kimberly Johnson came to TRC from Mt. Carmel to increase her independent living skills. After receiving instruction in home and financial management and other activities of daily living, Johnson, who has cerebral palsy, successfully completed her programs. Johnson was recently hired by A T & T in Johnson City as a customer services rep.

The Tennessee Rehabilitation Center is a state-operated comprehensive rehabilitation facility. It is one of only nine such centers in the nation. Services are provided on campus, and the majority of clients live on site while receiving services. The length of programs offered at TRC varies, depending upon the individual client’s interest, abilities and needs. TRC serves more than 1,300 Tennesseans with disabilities each year. Since opening its doors in 1977, TRC has served more than 28,000 individuals.

For more information about TRC, the Division of Rehabilitation Services and the Tennessee Department of Human Services, visit <http://www.state.tn.us/humanserv/rehabilitation.htm>

For a county-by-county breakdown of graduates, please see the following page:

CITIZENS PLAZA, 15TH FLOOR  
400 DEADERICK STREET  
NASHVILLE, TN 37248  
615.313.4700

Name		City
Brigette	Anderson	Mt. Juliet
Toshanna	Anglin	Bon Aqua
Laura	Atwood	Lebanon
Randy	Ball	Cosby
Kurtis	Bembrey	Clarksville
Robert	Bird	Rives
William	Black	Friendship
Michael	Bolton	Memphis
Patricia	Bouldin	Cookeville
Olivia	Brown	Memphis
Steven	Bruner	Tullahoma
Jacob	Cantrell	McMinnville
Elizabeth	Capley	Mt. Juliet
Theo	Case	Lebanon
Jennifer	Cauthen	Pegram
Davin	Crockett	Knoxville
John	Cunningham	McMinnville
Frank	Daniel	Smyrna
Julian	Ewart	Knoxville
Alyse	Fitzhugh	Millington
Brandon	Ford	Chattanooga
Timothy	Gillenwater	Westport
Bryan	Gilley	Hendersonville
Elijah	Gregory	Jackson
Steven	Greiner	Fairview
Rachel	Grief	Dyer
Susan	Gwinn	Nashville
Danielle	Haas	White House
Joshua "Trevor"	Hamby	Columbia
Kevin	Hanson	Nashville
Jacob	Hartman	Jefferson City
Alicen	Healy	Fayetteville
Lauren	Holt	Spring Hill
Edward	Holt	Nashville
Toni	Howell	Bethel Springs
Jeremy	Johanson	Crossville
Kimberly	Johnson	Mt. Carmel
Jeff	Johnson	Nashville
Steven	Johnson	Kingsport
Stacy	Jordan	Alcoa
Kristen	Kelley	Jackson
Summer	Kendrick	Brownsville
Michael	Killian	Nashville
Debra "Nikki"	Kinland	Paris
Kyle	Lewis	Smyrna
Heidi	Ludeman	Lavergne
Lowell	McCauley	Knoxville
Marlon "Jamal"	McDaniel	Antioch
Sean	Merrill	Dover

John	Metheny	Kingston
Daniel	Middleton	Hendersonville
Latasha	Mills	Nashville
Victor	Morin	Cookeville
Ameer	Muwwakil	Nashville
Sabrina	Nyugen	Memphis
Justin	Overcast	Shelbyville
Kyle	Pantozzi	Delano
Jessica	Parker	Jackson
Jessica	Pietrusza	Lebanon
Misty	Pool	Cedar Hill
Jeremy	Price	Dunlap
Justin	Proffitt	Gallatin
Christopher	Reed	Bell Buckle
Sue	Reeh	Cookville
Herman "Jacob"	Schutt	Springfield
Myriah	Schwartz	Brownsville
Bruce	Seale	Winchester
Chris	Simmons	Jackson
Eric	Smith	Algood
Quentin	Spinks	Milan
Kimberly	Stubblefield	Covington
Jerremy	Stubblefield	Burns
Cekita	Swift	Tiptonville
Carl	Tatum	Memphis
Nikki	Trice	Christiana
Justin	Velez	Madison
Dianna	Walker	Millington
Zacorey	Wallace	Powell
Ian	Walters	Knoxville
Brittany	Ware	Chattanooga
Casey	Weeks	Waynesboro
Quavarious	Whitmore	Mason
Courtney	Williams	Silver Point
Julie	Williamson	Jackson
Courtney	Worley	Winchester
Serena	Yates	Troy
Lee	Young	Nashville